

Message Text

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47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /112 W
----- 008458

R 071037 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4042

INFO AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 405

FORT LAMY FOR DATT

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PGOV, CT

SUBJECT: GOCAR MILITARY PROMOTIONS AND TRANSFERS

1. SERIES OF DECREES APRIL 3 AND 4, PRESIDENT BOKASSA PROMOTED SOME 25 CAR MILITARY OFFICERS IN ARMY AND GENDARMERIE AND ORDERED NUMBER OF TRANSFERS INVOLVING KEY PERSONNEL. BOKASSA ALSO ISSUED DECREE REAFFIRMING NON- POLITICAL ROLE AND CHARACTER OF AMRED FORCES.

2. PROMOTIONS INCLUDED FOUR TO BRIGADIER GENERAL AND TWO TO FULL COLONELS. NEW GENERALS ARE MAGALE AND LINGOUPOU OF GENDARMERIE, KOLINGBA OF ARMY AND BANGUI OF QUARTERMASTER CORPS, ALL OF WHOM WERE PROMOTED TO COLONEL TOGETHER IN 1970. NEW COLONELS ARE MANDE OF MILITARY ACADEMY AND KOLEGNAKO OF ENGINEERS.

3. TRANSFERS INCLUDE SEVERAL RECALLS TO MILITARY SERVICE FROM CIVILIAN DETAIL, MOST PROMINENT BEING MAGALE WHO HAD BEEN MINISTER OF HEALTH FOR YEARS UNTIL CABINET RESHUFFLE TWO WEEKS AGO WHEN HE WAS NAMED MINISTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT. HE IS NOW DESIGNATED INSPECTOR GENERAL OF CAR ARMED FORCES.

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RM COMMENT: PROMOTIONS MARK MAJOR ELEVATION OF RANK EXTENDING THROUGHOUT OFFICER CORPS AND ARE UNDOUBTEDLY DESIGNED TO REWARD AND FURTHER INSURE LOYALTY OF ARMED FORCES, WHO REMAIN BOKASSA'S MAJOR BASE OF POLITICAL SUPPORT. NAMING OF FOUR NEW GENERALS IS SIGNIFICANT IN THAT UP NOW ONLY ONE BESIDES BOKASSA TO HOLD GENERAL OFFICER RANK HAS BEEN VICE- CHIEF OF STAFF MANDABA. MOVE MAY IN FACT BE DESIGNED TO LESSEN BOKASSA'S AUTHORITY BY DIFFUSING POWER AMONG TOP OFFICERS AS FORM OF FURTHER POLITICAL INSURANCE. TRANSFERS RETURNING OFFICERS FROM CIVILIAN DETAIL ALSO APPEAR TO HAVE SOME OF SAME POLITICAL MOTIVATION.

5. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INDICATIONS OF MILITARY PLOTTING OR OF ANY PARTICULAR DISSATISFACTION ON PART OF ARMED FORCES WHICH MIGHT HAVE PROMPTED THESE MOVES, BUT BOKASSA APPARENTLY BELIEVES IN PERIODICALLY SHAKING THINGS UP ANYWAY JUST IN CASE. THIS SEEMS TO BE ONE OF THOSE TIMES.

6. TEXTS OF VARIOUS DECREES BEING POUCHED DEPT. AND FORT LAMY. ROSENTHAL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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